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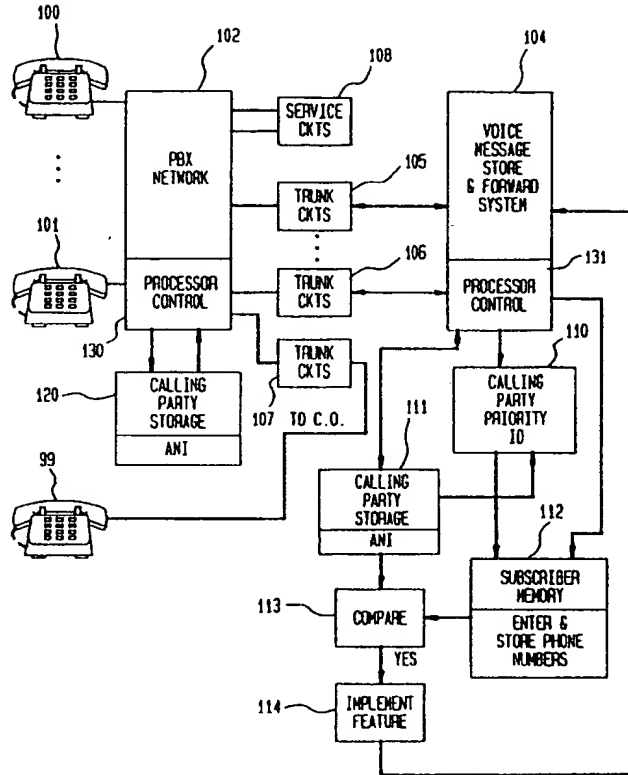
(54) **Message storage and retrieval systems employing selective caller processing.**

(57) There is disclosed a voice message system (104) that employs the automatic number identification, ANI, associated with a calling party. This information is transmitted from a switching system, such as a private branch exchange (102) or central office to the voice message system (104). The calling party's ANI is transferred and stored in an ANI register (111) of the voice message system and is compared with pre-stored numbers contained in a memory and selectively entered therein by a voice message subscriber. If a favorable comparison is made between the stored ANI and a number stored in memory, as inserted by the subscriber, a number of unique control features will be implemented by the system based on the confirmation that the ANI number, as derived from the calling party, compares favorably with the stored number entered by the system subscriber. In this manner the system, by making such a favorable comparison, can now im-

plement special features whereby the message stored by the calling party will receive a priority status. One special feature is controlled playback to the subscriber representing an urgent message status for desired calling party priority. The subscriber can further implement message playback whereby the calling party's actual name is announced to the subscriber during the playback of the message. In another special feature, the subscriber can receive his voice mail or messages from a number of locations other than the subscriber's actual extension, which numbers are stored in memory as entered by the subscriber. In another special feature, the subscriber can implement greetings whereby the calling party receives a greeting recorded specifically for them. In yet another special feature, the subscriber can initiate a callback to the original calling party by pressing a single digit.

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FIG. 1





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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 93 11 3370

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.5)
X	EP-A-0 455 912 (A.T.T.) * column 4, line 43 - column 5, line 38 * * column 8, line 43 - column 9, line 11 * Y * column 11, line 10 - column 13, line 34 *	1,2,9, 17,23, 25,26	H04M3/50 H04Q3/72
Y	---	3,10,18	
X	EP-A-0 420 527 (A.T.T.)	1,2,9, 17,23	
Y	* column 3, line 16 - column 4, line 14 *	3,10,18	
Y	---		
Y	EP-A-0 106 575 (VMX INC) * page 127, line 17 - page 128, line 20 *	3,10,18	
A	---		
A	US-A-5 029 196 (MORGANSTEIN) ---		
	IBM TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE BULLETIN, vol.26, no.5, October 1983, NEW YORK US pages 2645 - 2647 D.ZEHEB 'SECRETERIAL BRANCH EXCHANGE' -----		
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.5)
			H04M
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 12 July 1994	Examiner Vandevenne, M
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons ----- A : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

KPO FORM 1503 03.92 (P04C04)



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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

- ☐ All claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ Only part of the claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet -B-

- ☐ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.
- ☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:
- ☒ None of the further search fees has been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims: mentioned in item 1.



LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. Claims 3,10,18,23,25-26 (completely);
1-2,9,17 (partially)

Voice Mail System (VMS) coupled to a PBX or CO. The number of the calling party ANI nr. is transferred by the PBX or CO to the VMS and compared with numbers stored therein by a subscriber. Upon a favorable comparison the message left by the calling party is played back in any desired sequence.

2. Claims 4,11,19 (completely);
1-2,9,17 (partially)

VMS coupled to a PBX or CO. The number of the calling party ANI nr. is transferred by the PBX or CO to the VMS and compared with numbers stored therein by a subscriber. A favorable comparison enables a subscriber to receive stored messages from another telephone set.

3. Claims 5,12,20 (completely);
1-2,9,17 (partially)

VMS coupled to a PBX or CO. The number of the calling party ANI nr. is transferred by the PBX or CO to the VMS and compared with numbers stored therein by a subscriber. A favorable comparison enables the name of a calling party to be announced.

4. Claims 7,13,15-16,21 (completely);
1-2,9,17 (partially)

VMS coupled to a PBX or CO. The number of the calling party ANI nr. is transferred by the PBX or CO to the VMS and compared with numbers stored therein by a subscriber. A favorable comparison enables a calling party to receive a personal greeting.

5. Claims 8,14,22 (completely);
1-2,9,17 (partially)

VMS coupled to a PBX or CO. The number of the calling party ANI nr. is transferred by the PBX or CO to the VMS and compared with numbers stored therein by a subscriber. A favorable comparison enables a called party to be connected to the original message sender.

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LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirement of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

6. Claims 6,24 (completely);
1,17 (partially)

VMS receives the ANI nr. from a PBX or CO. The VMS includes means for decoding a subscriber request to determine which operations are to be implemented.